

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 05138 201239Z

50

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 AID-05 ACDA-05 /074 W

----- 014714

O 201211Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9884

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 5138

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS CB

SUBJECT: MARCH 20, THE 79TH DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: A. PHNOM PENH 5030

B. PHNOM PENH 4913

1. SUMMARY: KC ROCKETING OF PHNOM PENH INCREASED IN INTENSITY, WITH SEVERAL ROUNDS LANDING CLOSE TO THE EMBASSY. ROCKET FIRE AGAINST POCHENTONG CONTINUES TO BE MODERATE AND THE KC PRESSURE AROUND NEAK LUONG AND BANAM WAS ALSO COMPARATIVELY LIGHT. THE PLANNED OPERATION NORTHWEST OF POCHENTONG AGAINST ROCKET AREAS HAS NOT MADE ANY PROGRESS. THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THE SECTOR NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH BUT THE SITUATION THERE IS POTENTIALLY SERIOUS AS UNDERSTRENGTH FANK FORCES ARE STRETCHED THIN. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE MORNING OF MARCH 20, THREE 107MM ROCKETS EXPLODED NEAR THE EMBASSY AND THREE MORE FELL CLOSE BY DURING THE AFTERNOON. THESE WERE PART OF A TOTAL OF ABOUT 30 ROCKETS LANDING IN THE CAPITAL. CASUALTY FIGURES TO DATE FROM THESE ATTACKS ARE FOUR PERSONS KILLED, AND NINETEEN WOUNDED. NINE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 05138 201239Z

ROCKETS FELL ON OR AROUND POCHENTONG AS THE AIRLIFT CONTINUED

UNINTERRUPTED.

3. FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT NIGHT, THERE WERE NO GROUND ATTACKS REPORTED AGAINST NEAK LUONG AND BANAM ON THE LOWER MEKONG, AND ONLY FIFTY REPORTED INCOMING ROUNDS AS COMPARED TO 300-400 A NIGHT RECENTLY. SEVEN PERSONS WERE REPORTED KILLED, AND TWENTY-FIVE WOUNDED FROM THESE ATTACKS.

4. THE OPERATION NORTHEAST OF TUOL LEAP AGAINST KC ROCKET LAUNCHING AREAS HAS MADE NO PROGRESS AND THIS DOES NOT APPEAR LIKELY TO CHANGE. ROUTE 4 BETWEEN PHNOM PENH AND THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KOMPONG SPEU REMAINS CUT. FANK IS ATTEMPTING TO REOPEN THE ROAD.

5. THE POSITION OF 7TH DIVISION FORCES NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH REMAINS BASICALLY UNCHANGED ALTHOUGH THE KC PRESSURE AGAINST VIRTUALLY ALL POSITIONS IS CONSTANT. FRIENDLY UNITS ARE BADLY UNDERSTRENGTH AND HAVE LITTLE MANEUVERABILITY AGAINST THE KC. THEY ARE TENUOUSLY HOLDING THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS, SEVERAL OF WHICH ARE ISOLATED.

7. THE KC FORCE THAT PENETRATED TO THE MEKONG RIVER EAST BANK OPPOSITE PHNOM PENH AND WAS THEN SEALED OFF BY FANK FORCES (REFTEL B) MANAGED TO MAKE ITS WAY OUT IN SMALL GROUPS. FANK ESTIMATES HAVING KILLED ABOUT 50 OF THESE ENEMY SOLDIERS. HOWEVER, THE KC ARE IN STRENGTH OUTSIDE FRIENDLY LINES AND MORE ACTION IS EXPECTED.

DEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT ZONES, COMBAT CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM05138
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750097-0641
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750332/aaaabcoz.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PHNOM PENH 5030
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCH 20, THE 79TH DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE
TAGS: MOPS, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006